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BLACKNESS OF EVIL

•

BLOOD BATH

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WEIRD

CONTENTS FOR DECEMBER 1969 VOL. 3, NO. 5

THE BLACKNESS OF EVIL 4

A loathsome terror gripped the ground beneath the starless sky as the gruesome creatures of darkness spread an unspeakable horror . . . Ye-ch-h!

BLOOD BATH 9

An eerie tale that will curdle the core of your bloody nerve centers and leave you limp! . . . Warning, this is a real "shocker"! . . . Be "chicken" and never take a trip!

DEAD DUMMIES 14

From the fever wracked brain of a murderer an army of horror was spawned! Going where? . . . To your town? My town? 'Gulp' — behind you! — That thing — Aeeeeee . . . Oh well, I warned him.

THE SLIMY MUMMY 20

What foul and unnatural terror lurks beneath the layer of earth . . . waiting . . . waiting to crush you between its slimy fingers? This is a "spine-snapper"!

THE GRUESOME GARDEN 27

The legend of the mandrake root is not to be laughed at. Oliver Caxton laughed and died horribly! . . . Wipe the smirk off your face, if you want to live!

EXPERIMENT IN TERROR 33

When you bought this magazine you wanted 35¢ worth of terror? Right? When you read this masterpiece your blood will curdle into ice! Anyone got a coat — I'm freezing!

DEATH DANCE 40

Jungle beasts are whipped into a mad frenzy in this weird tale of the dance macabre! Okay, hairy, want to dance? Hey-stop! You're breaking my back! Crunch-h-h!

DIMENSION HORROR 48

Out the murky, smelly depths it came! And those caught in its claws had no knowledge that space shifted and time twisted into gasping horror! . . . My, my . . . what sharp nails you have, Grandma!

Carl Burgos, Editor Irving Fass, Art Director
Ezra Jackson, Art Editor

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UNSPEAKABLY **LOATHSOME** CREATURES DANCE BENEATH A STARLESS SKY... MEN CROUCH IN TERROR BEFORE THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF **DOOM**... TO KNOW ALL EVIL AND CHAOS IS TO KNOW...

THE BLACKNESS of EVIL

SUDDENLY THE BLACK VOID IS SPLIT BY A CACKLING VOICE--

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE VOICE OF THE DECREPIT HAG GROWS LOUDER AND LOUDER... AND FINALLY ON WALPURGIS NIGHT, THE LUST TO KILL HAS CAPTURED CARL'S TORTURED MIND...

A ROAR, A CLAP OF THUNDER, A SUDDEN STREAK OF LIGHTNING... AND CARL'S WISHES ARE MET!

LIKE PESTILENT SPIRITS FROM A ROTTING CORPSE, THE DEMONS OF WALPURGIS DANCE MADLY ABOUT CARL, URGING HIM ONTO HIS DEED OF DEATH!

THE CLOCKMAKER SINKS TO THE FLOOR--HIS LIFE-BLOOD RAPIDLY EBBS--AND A FEARFUL OATH FALLS FROM HIS LIPS---

JUBILANT AT THE LONG HOURS OF ***DEPRAVITY*** BEFORE THEM, THE CREATURES RUSH FROM THE CLOCKMAKER'S SHOP TO HEAR...

WHILE ALL TIME REMAINS SUSPENDED IN THE RAIN-DRENCHED AIR, THE BLACK DEMONS--LED BY THEIR ***NEW*** INITIATE IN EVIL--ENGAGE IN A WILD AND MONSTROUS ORGY OF DARKNESS!

IT IS RAINING HEAVILY! PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEEK SHELTER!
THE RAIN CANNOT HARM US! DANCE ON!

BUT AS THE RAIN CONTINUES IT BECOMES A DELUGE, AND...
WE SHALL DROWN HERE! IF TIME IS SUSPENDED--THEN IT WILL RAIN--- FOREVER!
WE MUST FIND SHELTER!

LET US INTO YOUR HOUSES! YOU CAN'T BOLT YOUR DOORS AGAINST US!
THEY FEAR US --THEY WILL NOT LET US IN!
THE WATER! THE WATER!!

FIERCELY--RELENTLESSLY--THE RAIN CONTINUES TO FALL UPON THE TERRIFIED CREATURES --- AND TIME STANDS STILL AND WAITS...
YA-AIEEEE-E!
QUICKLY-- OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO FLEE TO THE HILLS OUTSIDE THE CITY! OTHERWISE WE WILL DROWN!

WHAT MUST WE DO TO END THIS ETERNAL RAIN--THIS VENGEANCE OF THE HEAVENS??
WE HAVE BEEN TRAPPED BY THE CURSE OF YOUR DEAD MASTER! HIS SPELL MUST BE BROKEN!

HE SAID THAT HIS CURSE SHOULD BE ENDED ONLY WHEN YOU ARE DESTROYED!
YES!!
I--I DON'T REMEMBER! HE-- HE DIDN'T--!

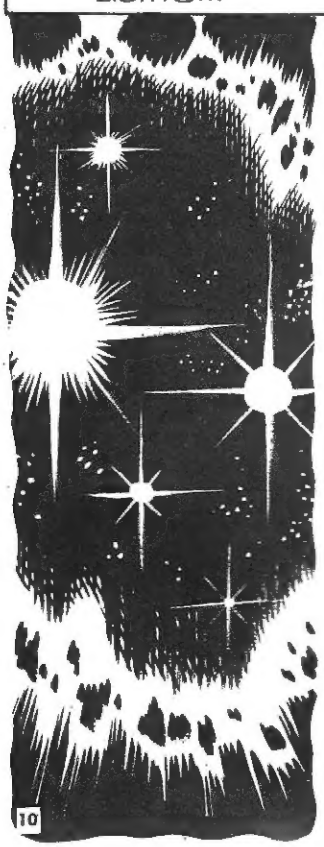
GRIMLY, THE FIENDS OF THE NIGHT TURN ON CARL... AND SEE THE END OF THEIR MISERY!
THEN YOU MUST-- DIE! OUR RACE CANNOT BE DESTROYED IN THE FLOOD!
NO! I HAVE SERVED YOU-- OBEYED YOU-- YOU CAN'T KILL ME!
SEIZE HIM! HE MUST NOT GET AWAY!
NO NO-O-O O-o-o...
ARAGHH!
AS THE BONY FINGERS OF THE CREATURES CRUSH AND TEAR ALL LIFE FROM CARL MORICH, THE RAIN STOPS! AND AS TIME BEGINS AGAIN, THE FORCES OF EVIL FADE INTO THE BLACK VOID TO RETURN ANOTHER WALPURGIS NIGHT...!
WE SHALL COME BACK! EVIL MUST ALWAYS THRIVE IN THE MINDS OF MAN! WE SHALL COME... BACK...
THE CLOCKS ARE MOVING... WE CAN LIVE AGAIN!!
WALPURGIS NIGHT SHALL SOON BE OVER!!
AND IN THE CLOCKMAKING SHOP OF FREDERICK KAFFNER, THE MANY CLOCKS BEGIN TO TICK MERRILY ABOVE THE BODY OF THEIR CREATOR--TICKING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO ANOTHER WALPURGIS NIGHT!
TICK...
TICK
TICK
THE END

HI' YOU BLOOD THIRSTY CATS! HERE'S AN EERIE TALE OF THE BLOODIEST **LSD** TRIP EVER... THIS WILL CURDLE THE VERY BLOODY CORE OF YOUR NERVE CENTERS AND LEAVE YOU LIMP WITH WILD EXCITMENT AND GHOULISH EXPECTATION... TIGHTEN YOUR SHACKLES AND COME WITH ME ON A BAD TRIP... PREPARE YOURSELF FOR AN

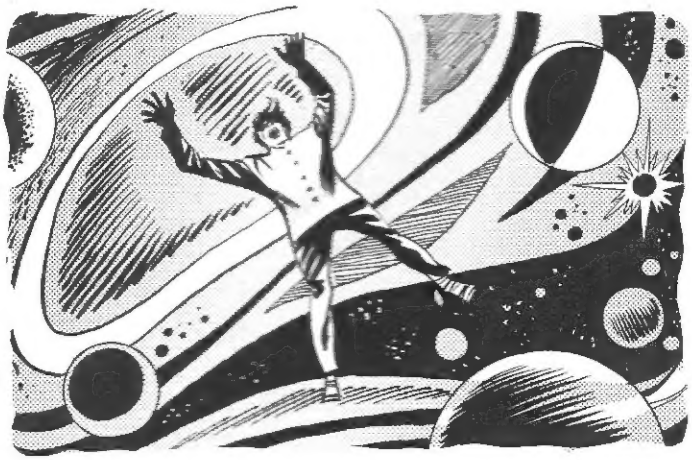
BLOOD BATH

THAT NIGHT...

AFTER TAKING THE SUGAR CUBE JOE SAT IN A DARK CORNER OF THE ROOM... IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE WHOLE ROOM SEEMED TO BE EXPLODING WITH HOT FLASHES OF BRIGHT LIGHTS...

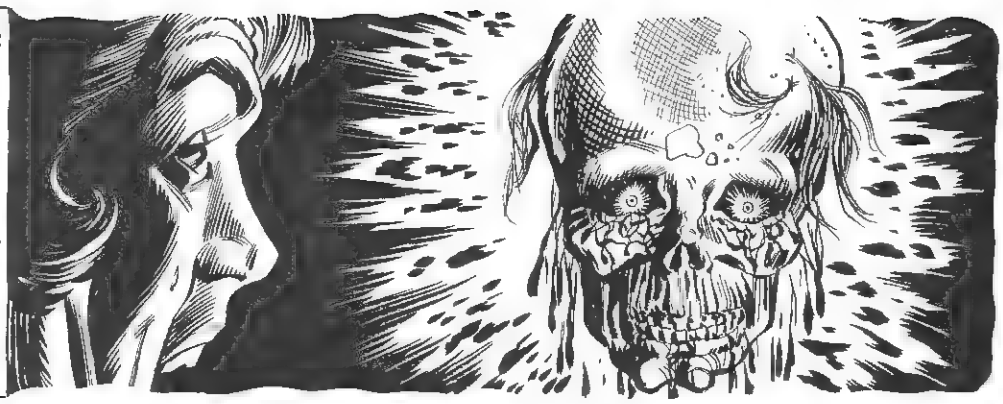


HE FELT AS TOUGH A GREAT WEIGHT WAS LIFTED FROM HIS BODY... HIS BRAIN WAS VIBRATING PULSATING AGAINST THE HARD SHELL LIKE INTERIOR OF HIS SKULL... HE FLOATED WEIGHTLESS AS THOUGH IN SPACE...



...HIS EYES ROLLED ABOUT IN THEIR SOCKETS UNTIL THEY SUDDENLY FELL UPON THE MINIATURE SKULL RESTING ON THE COFFEE TABLE...HE BEGAN TO MEDITATE UPON IT... AN ANGUISHED SCREAM ROSE FROM HIS THROAT AS BLOOD GUSHED FROM EVERY OPENING IN THE SKULL...THIS HE KNEW WAS GOING TO BE A BAD TRIP...

SHEAR HORROR TORE AT EVERY FIBRE OF HIS WHOLE BEING AS THE BLEEDING SKULL BEGAN WHAT SEEMED TO BE A TRANSITION... IT WAS TURNING INTO SOMETHING ALMOST HUMAN...



THE TRANSITION CONTINUED AS THE EERI THING BEGAN TO FLOAT ABOUT THE ROOM...

...THE TRANSFORMATION WAS COMPLETED... IT WAS THE BATTERED BLOODY HEAD OF A YOUNG GIRL...

HIS SUDDEN AGONIZING SCREAM CAUSED THE MACABRE HEAD TO DISAPPEAR IN A SUDDEN BLOODY EXPLOSION...

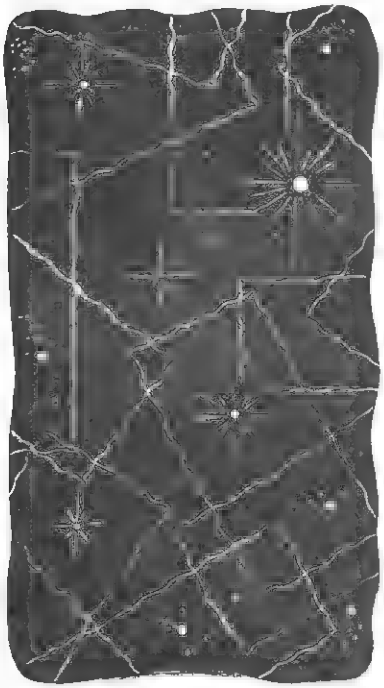
...HIS BODY SHAKING WITH FEAR AND EXHAUSTION, JOE FELL TO HIS KNEES AS HE FELT THE WEIRD SENSATION OF SINKING...

...SINKING IN WHAT SEEMED TO BE A STICKY, RED POOL OF BLOOD...

...GASPING FOR AIR, JOE BEGAN TO SINK IN THE HORRIBLE, PASTY RED MUCK...
...A SUDDEN STACCATO OF GUN SHOTS AND THE GRUESOME VISION OF A MAN BEING SHOT TO PIECES BRING JOE OUT OF HIS BLOOD BATH...
...THE AROMA OF SPENT GUNPOWDER FILLED HIS NOSTRILS AS NAUSEA AND WILD HYSTERIA GRIPED HIS VERY BEING...HIS ANGUISHED CRIES FOR RELEASE FROM THIS INSANE, HALF WORLD OF REALITY WENT UNHEEDED..... HE PLUNGED DEEPER INTO THE EDGE OF BLACKNESS...
...ICE COLD METAL TINGLED AGAINST THE FLESH OF HIS RIGHT HAND AND A SUDDEN SHARP PAIN WENT RACING THROUGH THE NERVE CENTERS OF HIS LEFT HAND...
...HIS AGONIZING SCREAM RESOUNDED THROUGH THE DARK CORRIDORS OF HIS DRUG SOAKED BRAIN AS HIS VISION FOCUSED ON HIS...
...VERY OWN HAND NAILED TO THE WALL...

HE SPUN DIZZILY...FEELING FAINT HE FELL TO THE FLOOR WITH THE STENCH OF DEATH IN HIS NOSTRILS...SLOWLY LIFE WAS EBBING FROM HIS SPASMODIC, ERRING BODY...

...WHITHIN SECONDS THE FINAL, THICK VEIL OF BLACKNESS ENVELOPED HIS WHOLE BEING AS HE ENTERED OBLIVION...



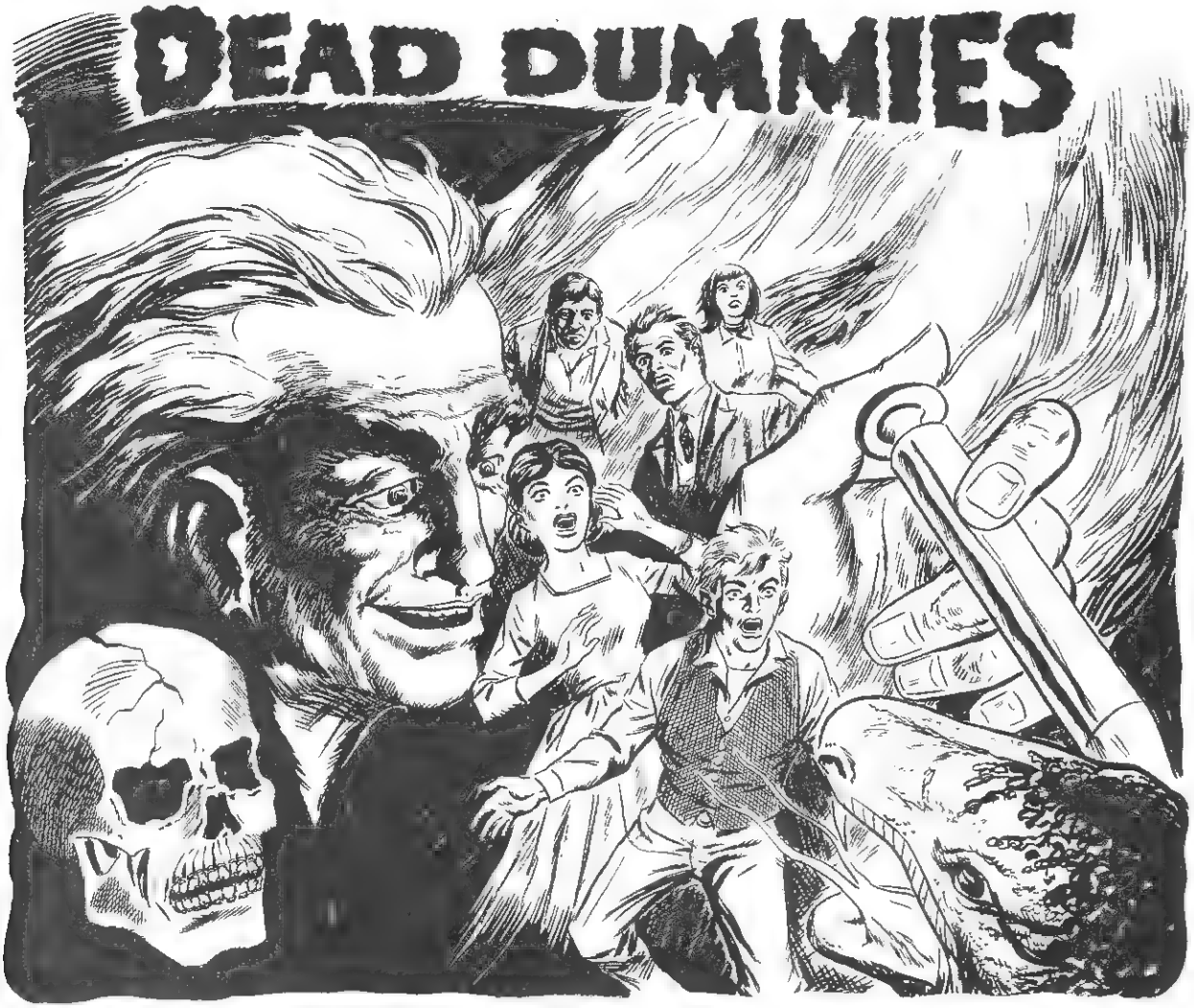
MOMENTS LATER COMPLAINTS FROM NEIGHBORS BROUGHT THE POLICE TO THIS GROTESQUE, SPINE-CHILLING SCENE...

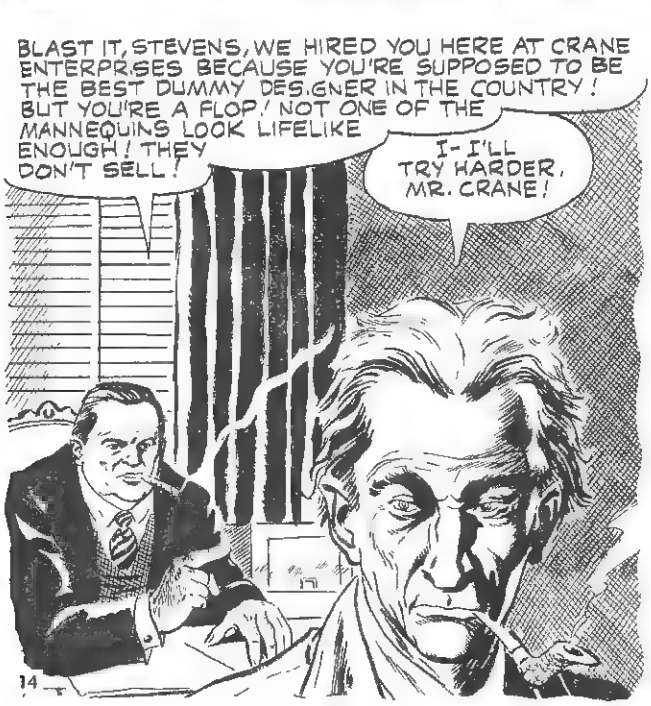
GREAT CEASERS GHOST, WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED HERE...IS LIKE A HUMAN BUTCHER SHOP...

The End

FROM THE FEVERED BRAIN OF A MURDERER GREW AN IDEA THAT TURNED INTO AN ARMY OF HORROR! AN ***UNBELIEVABLE FORM OF DEATH*** WAS VISITED UPON THE EARTH... BLACK TERROR KNOWN AS THE...

DEAD DUMMIES





STEVENS HAD LONG BEEN WORKING IN HIS SECRET LABORATORY... AND NOW FINALLY HE THOUGHT HE HAD DISCOVERED THE SECRETS OF LIFE AND DEATH...

AHHH! IF THIS WORKS... HEE! HEE! I'LL SURPRISE MR. CRANE WITH A KIND OF MANNEQUIN HE'S NEVER SEEN! HEE! HEE! LIFELIKE, EH? WE'LL SOON SEE!

THERE'S NO USE IN STRUGGLING MY LITTLE FRIEND! IF THIS WORKS, YOU'LL NEVER MOVE AGAIN... BUT YOU'LL STILL BE ALIVE! ALIVE AND LIFELIKE... BUT UNABLE TO MOVE! HEE! HEE! HEEEHARRHAHA!

EEEYAH! IT WORKED! SO YOU WERE GOING TO SPRING AT ME WHEN I LET YOU GO, EH? BUT YOU FROZE! FOREVER ***FROZEN*** INTO ***LIVING DEATH...*** HEEEHAHAHA!

THE NEXT MORNING, STEVENS HURRIED TO WORK, HIS MAD BRAIN INTENT ON CAPTURING A ***HUMAN VICTIM*** FOR HIS ***UNHOLY EXPERIMENTS...***

HA! THERE IS ONE OF THE CUSTOMERS WHO COMPLAINED THAT SHE DIDN'T LIKE THE LAST SHIPMENT OF MANNEQUINS I DESIGNED! HEE! HEE! IF I CAN GET HER ALONE IN THE STORE ROOM... SHE WILL BE MY FIRST ***HUMAN LIVING CORPSE!***

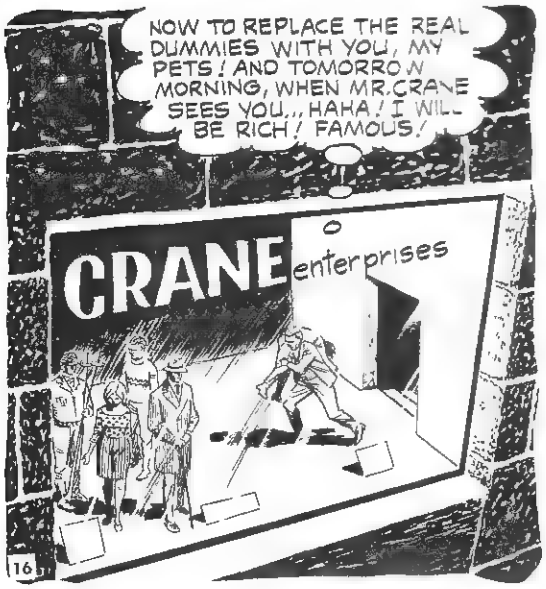
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM... I NOTICED YOU WAITING FOR YOUR ORDER... WOULD YOU PLEASE STEP INTO THE STORE-ROOM WITH ME... THERE SEEMS TO BE A MIXUP CONCERNING THE MANNEQUINS YOU BOUGHT!

I DON'T SEE ANY OF THE DUMMIES I ORDERED! THERE'S SOME MISTAKE! WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?

THIS IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE... YOU ARE GOING TO BE THE FIRST OF MY MASTER-PIECES! HAHAHA! HEE! HAHA!

SO-O-O YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE LAST BATCH OF DUMMIES I DESIGNED, EH? JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU GRACE SOME STORE WINDOW... THE WORLD WILL HAIL ME AS A GENIUS! BUT BEFORE I CAN SELL YOU, I MUST MAKE MORE ZOMBIES! HEE! HEE!

FOR A WEEK STEVENS WENT ON A RAMPAGE OF DEATH... UNTIL FINALLY HE HAD MADE A ROOMFUL OF CREATURES OF TERROR!
FINALLY! NOW, MY BEAUTIES, TO SHOW YOU TO MR. CRANE! AH, HOW YOUR EYES GLEAM HATRED FOR ME! BUT YOU CAN DO NOTHING... YOU ARE DOOMED TO A DEATHLESS ETERNITY OF FROZEN LIFE!


NOW TO REPLACE THE REAL DUMMIES WITH YOU, MY PETS! AND TOMORROW MORNING, WHEN MR. CRANE SEES YOU... HAHA! I WILL BE RICH! FAMOUS!
CRANE enterprises

...AND I WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE THESE NEW MANNEQUINS DESIGNED IN A SCENE FROM ONE OF THE RECENT BEST-SELLER MURDER MYSTERIES: THE WINDOW WITH THESE DUMMIES WILL ATTRACT DOZENS OF CUSTOMERS!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, MY BOY! I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU EVER MADE SUCH LIFELIKE MANNEQUINS!

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE! ...NOW TO ADD A FEW MORE FINISHING TOUCHES AND I CAN DISPLAY MY MASTERPIECES TO THE WORLD!
AMAZING NEW CRANE MANNEQUINS SEE THEM ARRANGED IN A SCENE FROM NEW MYSTERY TIDE OF DEATH
WATCH WINDOW

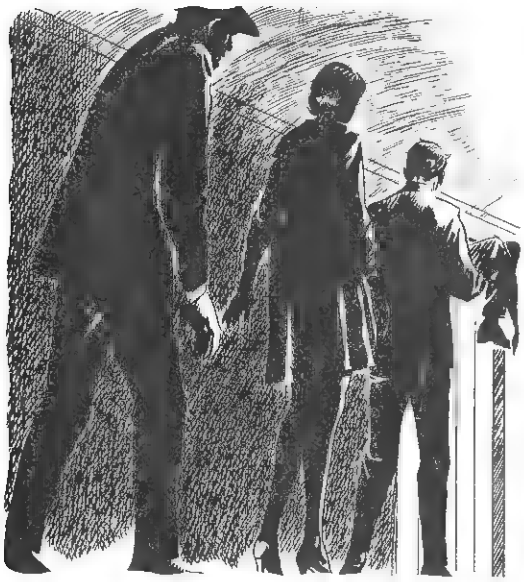
NOW YOUR EYES GLARE MURDER, MY PETS! THOSE FOOLS OUT THERE THINK THIS IS JUST MAKE-BELIEVE... NOW! EVERYTHING IS PERFECT! NOW TO RIP OFF THE SIGN AND LET THEM SEE YOU!

THERE! FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE MANNEQUINS IN THE WORLD!
OOH! THEY LOOK LIKE REAL PEOPLE!
EVEN THEIR EYES SEEM REAL!

WELL, NOW TO GET OUT OF THE WINDOW... WHA--THOUGHT I HAD JUST ARRANGED THESE GLOVES... IT'S FALLING OFF... IT'S MOVING! NO! NO!

HELP, HELP! NO! THE PEOPLE THINK IT'S PART OF THE ACT! HELP! I'M STRANGLING... I'M STRANGLGLGGLL... RRUGHUUHH!
OH, LOOK! ONE OF THE DUMMIES IS WIRED SO IT CAN MOVE ITS ARM... AND THE MAN IS PRETENDING TO STRANGLE!
WHAT A MASTERPIECE OF SHOWMANSHIP!

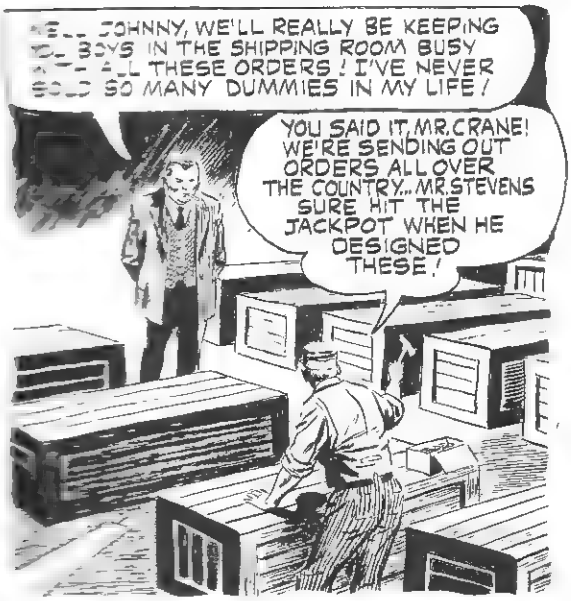
ALL THROUGH THE DAY STEVENS LAY DEAD...AND ONLOOKERS WHO CAME LATER THOUGHT HE WAS JUST ANOTHER DUMMY IN THE WINDOW! THOSE WHO HAD SEEN THE ACT DID NOT REALIZE THE SCENE OF VENGEANCE THEY HAD WITNESSED! AND NIGHT SETTLED BLACKLY...
AMAZING NEW CRANE MANNEQUINS
WATCH WINDOW



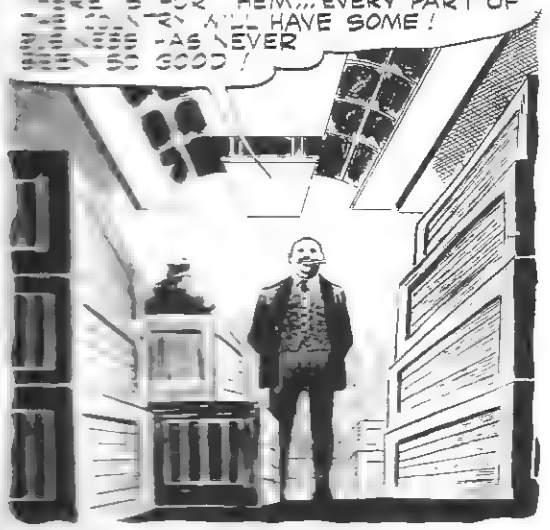
AFTER THEIR MIDNIGHT DEED, THE MANNEQUINS RESUMED THEIR PLACES AS IF THEY HAD NEVER MOVED. AND IN THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE STORE THEY LEFT A SHAKEN LITTLE MAN WHO SHUDDERED WITH UNSPEAKABLE DREAD...

BUT WHEN THE WATCHMAN TRIED TO TELL HIS STORY THE NEXT DAY...
PLEASE, MR. CRANE! PLEASE! YA GOTTA BELIEVE ME! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES! THEY MOVED!
SURE...SURE, WILLIE, AND STEVENS IS IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT.. SURE, I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT! NOW, I THINK YOU NEED A GOOD LONG VACATION!

WHEW! I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER GET HERE! POOR WILLIE GOT SO OLD HE CRACKED UP... SAY, I WONDER WHERE STEVENS REALLY IS? HE HASN'T SHOWN UP YET, TODAY!
LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M NOT CRAZY! YA GOTTA BELIEVE ME! I SAW IT!


WELL JOHNNY, WE'LL REALLY BE KEEPING YOU BOYS IN THE SHIPPING ROOM BUSY WITH ALL THESE ORDERS! I'VE NEVER SOLD SO MANY DUMMIES IN MY LIFE!
YOU SAID IT, MR. CRANE! WE'RE SENDING OUT ORDERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.. MR. STEVENS SURE HIT THE JACKPOT WHEN HE DESIGNED THESE!

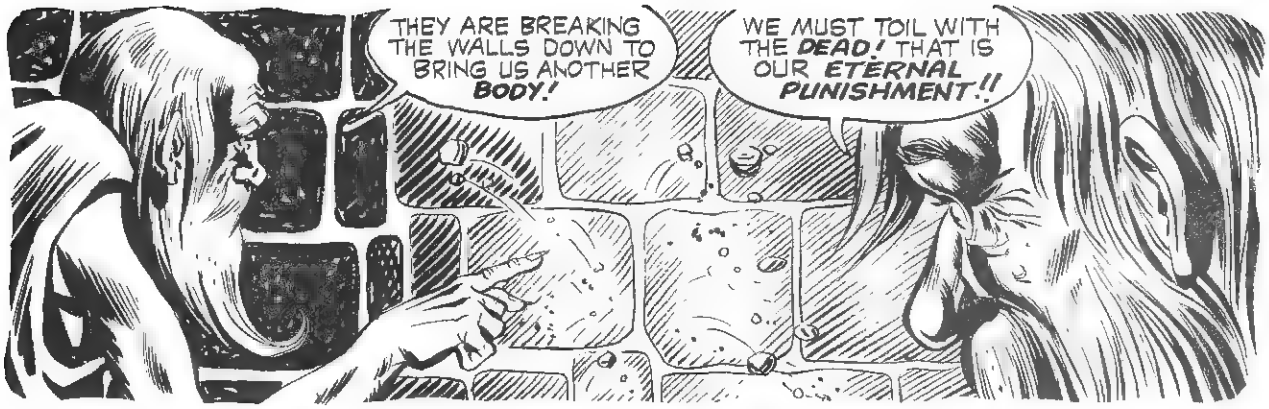
BUT, YOU KNOW, MR. CRANE... I CAN'T REALLY BLAME POOR WILLIE! I JUST HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE MANNEQUINS THAT GIVE ME THE CREEPS!
YES...THEY ARE QUEER SOMEHOW! AND AT NIGHT, ALONE WITH THEM... BRR! I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO WILLIE! WATCHING YOU SHIP THESE OUT IS LIKE WATCHING YOU NAIL DOWN COFFINS FOR REAL CORPSES!


BUT STRANGE AS THEY ARE, WE'RE SELLING ALL WE HAVE! WHAT A DEMAND THERE IS FOR THEM... EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE SOME! BUSINESS HAS NEVER BEEN SO GOOD!

BUT MR. CRANE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS SHIPPING MURDER... TO EVERY VILLAGE... EVERY STORE... WHERE WILL THEY STRIKE NEXT...? WHERE...? WHEN...?
THE END

THE SLIMY MUMMY

NO PERSON DARES TO THINK WHAT ***FOUL*** AND ***UNNATURAL*** HORRORS LURK BENEATH THE BLACK SURFACE OF THE EARTH WAITING TO CRUSH HUMAN LIFE BETWEEN THEIR SLIMY FINGERS... YET OF ALL THESE MONSTERS NONE ARE SO ***APPALLING***, SO ***TERRIFYING*** AS--


THEY ARE BREAKING THE WALLS DOWN TO BRING US ANOTHER BODY!
WE MUST TOIL WITH THE DEAD! THAT IS OUR ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!!

ANOTHER TRAVELLER TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD COMES INTO THE ROOM TO FILL IT WITH HIS SICKLY ODOR--AND THE SERVANTS OF THE TOMB GAZE UPON IT WITH AWE AND DREAD!
WHY IS HE SO LARGE?
HE MUST BE ONE OF THE FEW GIANTS LEFT IN THE LAND!

HIS FACE HAS THE MARK OF BRUTALITY ON IT! HE MUST HAVE SHED MUCH BLOOD IN HIS TIME!
SOMEHOW HE LOOKS VERY FAMILIAR!
THEY HAVE CLOSED THE WALL! THEY NEVER FORGET!

I KNOW WHO HE IS: THIS IS TORO, THE MURDERING GIANT WHO HAS KILLED HUNDREDS IN HIS DAY! THEY CAUGHT HIM AT LAST!

WE HAD BETTER PREPARE HIM FOR BURIAL!
THEY WILL GET MUCH PLEASURE FROM SEEING HIM UNDER THE EARTH!

WAIT! DO YOU RECALL THE LEGEND OF TORO? THOUGH HE MAY DIE, THE PEOPLE SAY HE CAN BE RESTORED TO LIFE IF HE BE BATHED IN THE LIGHT OF A FULL MOON!

...AND TONIGHT THE FULL MOON APPEARS! IF WE CAN BRING ITS LIGHT IN HERE, THE BODY WILL BE RE-STORED TO LIFE!
AND WE CAN LEAD HIM AGAINST THOSE WHO LOCKED US IN THIS DUNGEON FOREVER!

THE STONES IN THE WALL HAVE BEEN LOOSENED BY BEING CONSTANTLY BROKEN DOWN! THEN WE CAN ESCAPE WITH TORO AS OUR LEADER!
YES! YES! LET'S HURRY!

NO! WE CANNOT OPPOSE THE GODS BY RESTORING THE DEAD TO LIFE! IT'S AGAINST THEIR WISHES! WE ARE JUST TOMB SERVANTS!
THAT IS TRUE! WE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED!

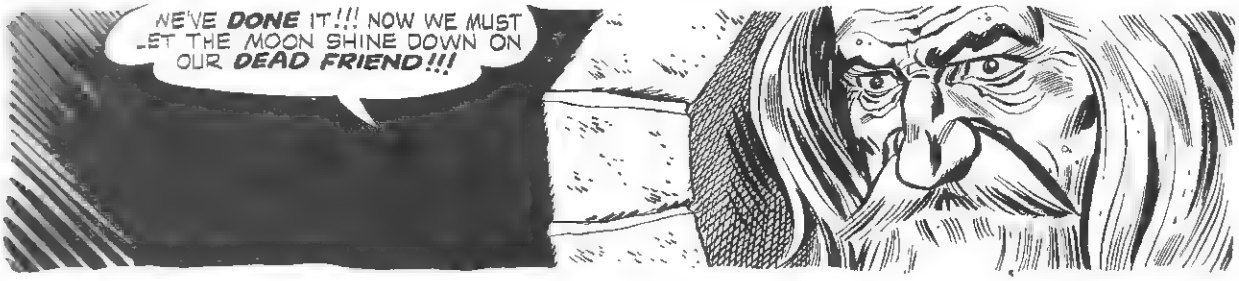
IN A MOMENT, FIERCE WORDS STRIKE OUT LIKE COBRAS IN THE DARK! THE AIR IN THE ROOM BECOMES HEAVY WITH DANGER AND FOREBODING...
DO YOU WANT TO ROT HERE FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS?
THE GODS WILL UNLEASH THEIR WRATH UPON US FOR DISTURBING THE DEAD!

THEN WE WILL DO IT WITHOUT YOU! DIE, FOOL!

AAiiiiii

LET THE GODS BE ANGRY NOW... ALL THOSE WHO ARE AFRAID OF THEIR FATE HAVE BEEN KILLED!
HURRY! THE MOON WILL BE OUT SOON!

DO NOT STOP UNTIL THE WALL HAS BEEN BROKEN!
TORO WILL WALK THE STREETS OF THE CITY-- TONIGHT!


WE'VE DONE IT!!! NOW WE MUST LET THE MOON SHINE DOWN ON OUR DEAD FRIEND!!!

THE MOON IS BRIGHT --S EVENING! SHOULD HELP US N OUR... WORK...
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!!! LOOK-- IT STIRS!

STEADILY THE MOON SHINES ON THE LOATHESOME FIGURE ON THE SLAB UNTIL LIFE BEGINS TO STIR WITHIN THE TREMENDOUS BODY!

A-A-W-W-R-R-R-R!
HE'S ALIVE AGAIN!
--AND HE BELONGS TO US!

WE GAVE LIFE BACK TO HIM! HE WILL OBEY US NOW! WE ARE HIS MASTERS!
YET, HE FRIGHTENS ME!
RAW-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-ROWR--
COME, TORO, FOLLOW US INTO THE CITY! THE MOON IS FULL AND THERE ARE MANY WHOSE THROATS ARE WAITING TO BE TORN BY YOUR STRONG FINGERS!
A-A-A-R-R-R-R-H-H-H!
FOLLOW US INTO THE NIGHT AIR! THE CITY IS NOT FAR
WE ARE FREE AT LAST! SEE HOW THEY RUN FROM US!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE SERVANTS OF THE TOMB HAVE ESCAPED AND BROUGHT TORO BACK TO LIFE!
ROWRRR
THEY FLEE IN FRIGHT FROM US, TORO! THEY DO NOT WISH TO PAY THE PRICE FOR FORCING A LIVING DEATH UPON US! BUT THEY MUST!
KILL HIM! KILL HIM! REMOVE THE LIGHT FROM HIS EYES AS THEY DO FROM OURS!
GROWRR!
ARRGH!

ONWARD THE SCOURGE OF DEATH AND TERROR SWEEPS THROUGH THE NIGHT, LEAVING BROKEN BODIES IN HIS WAKE AND THE TRIUMPHANT CRIES OF HIS GODLESS MASTERS!
NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME! AH-H-H!
WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY PERSON IN THE CITY HAS FALLEN AND LIES DEAD UNDER OUR WRATH AND POWER! COME, TORO!
RAWRRR!
IS THERE NO HELP FROM THIS PLAGUE OF VIOLENT DEATH? ARE THE GODS DEAF TO OUR CRIES FOR MERCY?
HELP US BEFORE WE PERISH LIKE THE OTHERS!
IN ANSWER TO THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, A SUDDEN BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRIKES THE SKY...
LOOK! A SIGN IN THE SKY!
WHAT COULD IT MEAN? WILL WE BE SAVED?
IS THE WHITE GIANT OF PEACE SENT TO RESCUE US FROM THIS HORRIBLE DOOM!
LEAVE THE CITY AT ONCE, FOUL CREATURES OF THE NIGHT! YOU HAVE BROUGHT ENOUGH HAVOC UPON THE PEOPLE!
RAWRRR!
THERE IS BUT ONE WAY TO END YOUR RAMPAGE! I MUST DESTROY THIS MONSTER FOR ALL TIME... AND I MUST DESTROY HIM NOW!

THE BATTLE BEGINS...
RAWRRRRR! GRAWRRR!!
YOU MUST WIN, TORO! YOU MUST!
AWRRRR!
DIE AT LAST, MONSTER OF EVIL!
ARRGHH-H-H!
FREE FROM THE THREAT OF SUDDEN DEATH THE PEOPLE TURN WITH FURY ON THEIR ASSAILANTS...
WHY DON'T WE KILL THEM? THEY DESERVE NO BETTER!
YES! WE'LL SHOW THEM WHAT IT IS TO FACE DEATH WITHOUT WARNING!
NO, PEOPLE, YOU MUST NOT KILL THEM! THEY MUST RETURN TO THEIR PRISON BENEATH THE TOMB... NEVER TO LEAVE AGAIN!
AND SO THE TOMB SERVANTS RETURN TO THEIR VAULT, FOREVER SHUT FROM THE LIGHT OF THE SUN, FOREVER DOOMED TO LIVE WITH THE DEAD!
THE END

The Gruesome Garden

DREADFUL LEGENDS ABOUT THE MANDRAKE ROOT ARE AS OLD AS TIME ITSELF! ONE STORY IS THAT IT SCREAMS WHEN UPROOTED, ANOTHER THAT ITS JUICE IS DEADLY POISON! OLIVER CAXTON, PLANTER, LAUGHED AT ALL SUCH SILLY TALES! YET HE LIVED— AND DIED HORRIBLY— TO FIND OUT WHY HIS ANCESTRAL HOME WAS CALLED MANDRAKE MANOR...

OLIVER CAXTON'S FAMILY HAD BEEN TEA PLANTERS ON CEYLON FOR GENERATIONS! ONE DAY AS HE WALKED WITH HIS DAUGHTER...

LATER, IN A TEA FIELD...
YOU SEE, SIR? THE MANDRAKE IS EVERYWHERE! RIGHT IN WITH THE TEA!
THAT IS STRANGE! THEY'VE NEVER INVADED THE TEA FIELDS BEFORE!
THAT ISN'T ALL! THE ROOTS ARE LARGER— AND THEY LOOK MORE LIKE—LIKE HUMANS THAN BEFORE! BUT JUST LISTEN, SIR! LISTEN!

THERE! HEAR THAT? REMEMBER THE OLD SUPERSTITION, SIR?
THAT NOISE! THE ROOT SCREAMED!
AYYYEEEEE!!
I'M FLABBERGASTED, TOM! IT DID SCREAM, YET IT'S ONLY A ROOT! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
I DON'T KNOW SIR! BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING— THE TEA PLANTS ARE ALL DYING

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT! WE'RE BOTH MAD! I'LL TRY ANOTHER ONE!
AAHHHHHHH!!

LATE THAT NIGHT AS A TROPICAL STORM WHIPS AROUND MANDRAKE MANOR...
STRANGE HOW I KEEP HEARING THINGS OUT THERE! LIKE THE SOUND OF THOSE MANDRAKE ROOTS THIS AFTERNOON! MUST BE GOING INTO MY DOTAGE!

SUDDENLY, TOM MOORE, THE OVERSEER, LURCHES INTO THE ROOM...
MR. CAXTON! THEY'RE GROWING LIKE MAD! AND SCREAMING! I— I SAW THEM!
SAW WHAT, MAN?

THE MANDRAKE, SIR! THIS WARM RAIN HAS MADE THEM SPROUT! I TELL YOU THEY'RE ALMOST AS BIG AS A MAN! AND THEY'RE SCREAMING —OR TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES!

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING—OR DRINKING! BUT COME ON! I'LL TAKE THIS MACHETE JUST IN CASE!
BETTER NOT GO OUT THERE, SIR!

TOM MOORE GETS A MACHETE AND FOLLOWS OLIVER CAXTON...
FUNNY NOISES ALL RIGHT! LIKE THAT THING TODAY!
I TOLD YOU! THEY'RE TALKING!
YOOOWWWWW!
EEEEEEE!!!!

SUDDENLY, THEY ARE CONFRONTED BY A SIGHT THAT FREEZES THEM IN THEIR TRACKS...
GREAT SCOTT! IT IS A—A MANDRAKE ROOT! BIG AS WE ARE!
IT'S ALIVE, SIR! DANGEROUS!
YAAAAOWWWW!

MORE OF THEM! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
HURRY! BACK TO THE HOUSE!
ARRRGRRRROO!
ARRRRGG!
BUT...
CUTTING US OFF! THEY'RE INTELLIGENT! THEY THINK!
HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH!

TAKE THAT, YOU — YOU VEGETABLE MONSTERS!
ARRRRRGG!
GLUGGGG!

THAT'LL CRIPPLE YOU!
GHHHHH!
SWISH

THEN TOM MOORE'S BLOOD TURNS TO ICE...
IT G-GREW A NEW ARM!

WHILE OLIVER CAXTON GOES DOWN UNDER AN ONSLAUGHT OF THE EERIE CREATURES...
HELP! KILLING ME— GAAAAA-
RRRRHHHH!
EEEEEEE!

SOMEHOW TOM MOORE MADE IT BACK TO THE HOUSE...
TOM! WHAT IS IT? WHERE'S FATHER?
THEY GOT HIM! THOSE FOUL THINGS! QUICK, BAR ALL THE WINDOWS AND DOORS!

AFTER A FEW BRIEF WORDS OF EXPLANATION, VIRGINIA CAXTON UNDERSTANDS HER PERIL...
HOW HORRIBLE! POOR FATHER! BUT I MUSTN'T LOSE MY NERVE! I'LL BAR THE UPSTAIRS WINDOWS!

BUT...
AHHHH— IN THE HOUSE!
UNGGGGGG!

TOM! UP HERE! HELP!
AGRRRRRRRRR!

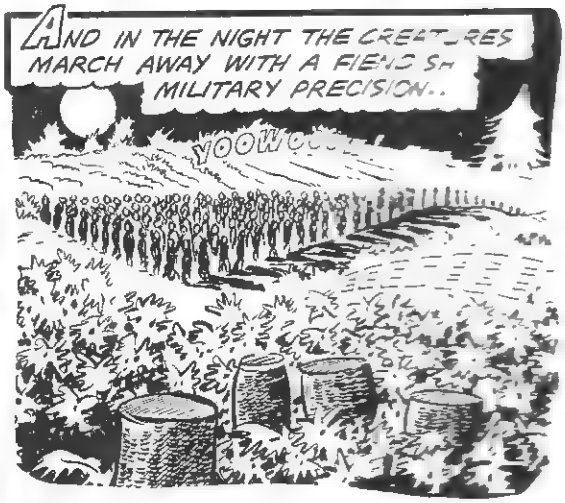
HELP! OH—NO— NO—AHHHHH—
THEY'VE GOT VIRGINIA!

I'LL SAVE YOU, VIRGINIA!
RRRRRRRRRR
OHHHHH—

TOM SLASHES AWAY THE LEGS OF THE THING AND...
GOT TO GET IN HERE BEFORE IT GROWS NEW LEGS!
AHHHHHH G-GGGGGGG!

ONCE IN THE LOCKED ROOM..
YES, SIR! NO, I'M NOT CRAZY! THEY'RE ALIVE! THEY MURDERED MR. CAXTON! SEND HELP, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!
TOM. LOOK...

THEY'RE LEAVING, TOM! WE'RE SAFE!
MARCHING IN FORMATION! LIKE SOLDIERS!


AND IN THE NIGHT THE CREATURES MARCH AWAY WITH A FIENDISH MILITARY PRECISION..

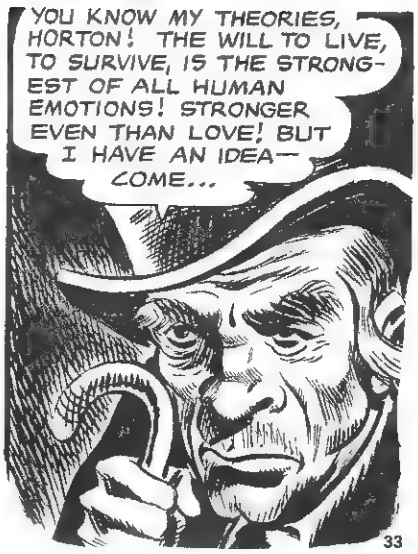
AND VANISH FROM SIGHT...
HERE COME THE POLICE, TOM! I SEE THEIR LIGHTS!
GONE! NOT A TRACE OF THEM!

YOOOOOWWW!
EEEEEEEEE
THEY WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN. IT WAS AS THOUGH THE EARTH HAD SWALLOWED THEM! BUT SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD THOSE TERRIBLE LEGIONS STILL MARCH AND PERHAPS SOON, THEY WILL STRIKE AGAIN!
THE END

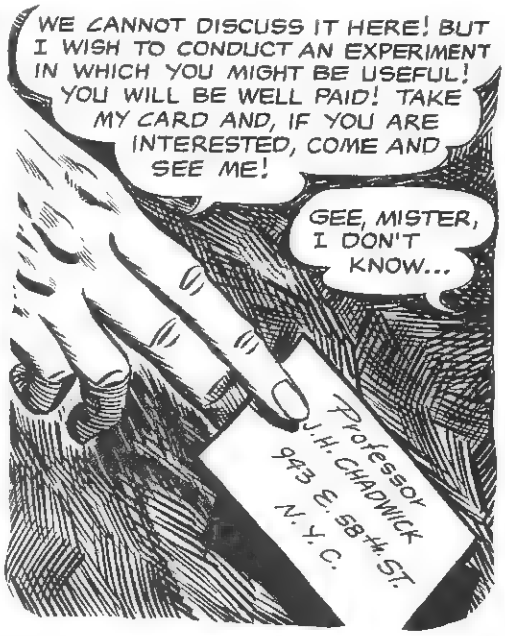
HOLD ON THERE,---- NO USE TRYING TO GET AWAY! WHEN YOU BOUGHT THIS MAGAZINE, YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THRILLS, RIGHT? YOU WANTED 35 CENTS WORTH OF TERROR— BUT WE—(CHUCKLE)—ARE GOING TO GIVE YOU A LOT MORE THAN **THAT!** HO-HO—YES, INDEED! WHEN YOU'VE READ THIS LITTLE MASTERPIECE, YOUR FLESH WILL SHRINK ON YOUR QUIVERING BONES AND YOUR BLOOD WILL CURDLE INTO ICE! **SHHH**—DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT **HE** IS STANDING BEHIND YOU, COME TO TAKE YOU TO **THE HUMAN ZOO...**

EXPERIMENT in Terror

TWO DISTINGUISHED MEN OF SCIENCE WALK IN CENTRAL PARK...



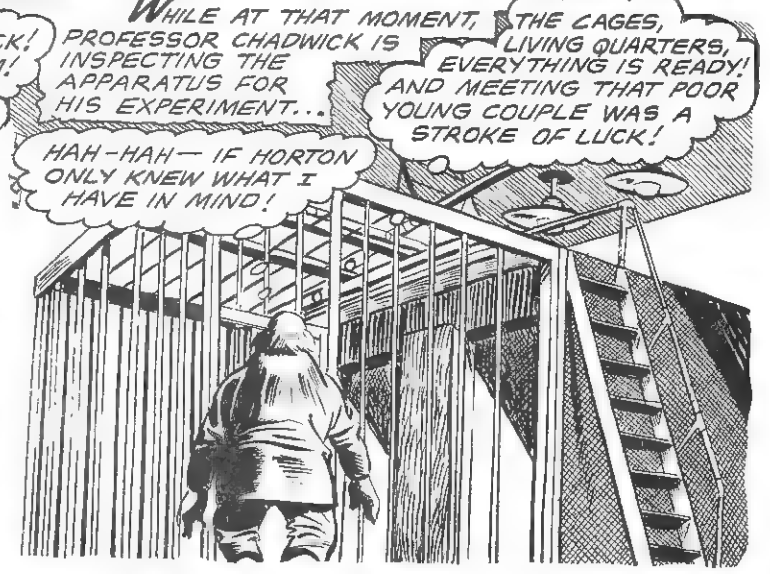
SO... EXCUSE ME, YOUNG PEOPLE! I AM PROFESSOR CHADWICK, AN ANTHROPOLOGIST! NO DOUBT YOU COULD USE SOME MONEY? TO GET MARRIED, PERHAPS!
B-BUT WHO...
WHAT'S YOUR GAME, OLD MAN?


WE CANNOT DISCUSS IT HERE! BUT I WISH TO CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE USEFUL! YOU WILL BE WELL PAID! TAKE MY CARD AND, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, COME AND SEE ME!
GEE, MISTER, I DON'T KNOW...
Professor J.H. CHADWICK 943 E. 58th ST. N.Y.C.

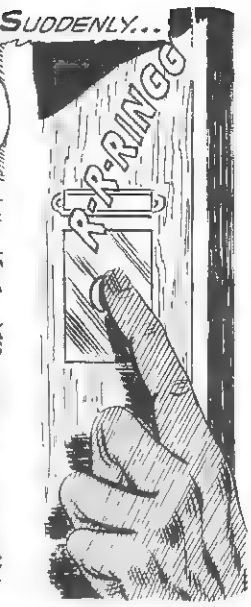
LATER...
THEY'LL SHOW UP, HORTON! YOU'LL SEE! THEN I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT LOVE IS ALL A LOT OF EYE-WASH!
I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU AT ALL, BUT I'LL CONFESS I'M INTERESTED! JUST HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO GO ABOUT THIS EXPERIMENT?

BUT PROFESSOR CHADWICK ISN'T TALKING...
GOOD-NIGHT, CHADWICK! SORRY YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT IT! BUT I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH!
BAH— YOU'RE AS MUCH A FOOL AS THE REST OF THEM! BUT I'LL SHOW YOU I'M RIGHT! I'LL SHOW THE WORLD! LOVE! HAH-HAH!

A QUEER LITTLE DUCK, CHADWICK! I FEEL TERRIBLY SORRY FOR HIM! BUT HE'S BITTER, HATES LOVE AND LOVERS BECAUSE HE IS HIMSELF SO GROTESQUE AND DEFORMED! SOMETIMES I WONDER IF HE'S QUITE SANE!


WHILE AT THAT MOMENT, PROFESSOR CHADWICK IS INSPECTING THE APPARATUS FOR HIS EXPERIMENT...
THE CAGES, LIVING QUARTERS, EVERYTHING IS READY! AND MEETING THAT POOR YOUNG COUPLE WAS A STROKE OF LUCK!
HAH-HAH— IF HORTON ONLY KNEW WHAT I HAVE IN MIND!

A FEW NIGHTS LATER...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT, CHADWICK! YOUR SUBJECTS HAVEN'T SHOWN UP!
THEY WILL! I FEEL SURE OF IT!


SUDDENLY...
R-R-RINGG

AND...
AH, GOOD EVENING, MY DEARS! COME IN — COME IN!
HMM — CHADWICK WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL!
W—WE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, SIR! ABOUT YOUR OFFER!

AN AGREEMENT IS SOON REACHED...
JUST COME WITH ME! I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE YOU'RE TO LIVE DURING THE— (CHUCKLE)— EXPERIMENT!
S-SURE!

THERE! YOU WILL BE LOCKED IN THE CAGE! THERE ARE LIVING QUARTERS FOR EACH OF YOU! I WILL—(HEH-HEH)— LET YOU OUT WHEN ONE OF YOU ADMITS THAT HUNGER IS STRONGER THAN LOVE!
B—BUT WE'LL NEVER DO THAT! MARY AND I LOVE EACH OTHER MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF!
FANTASTIC!

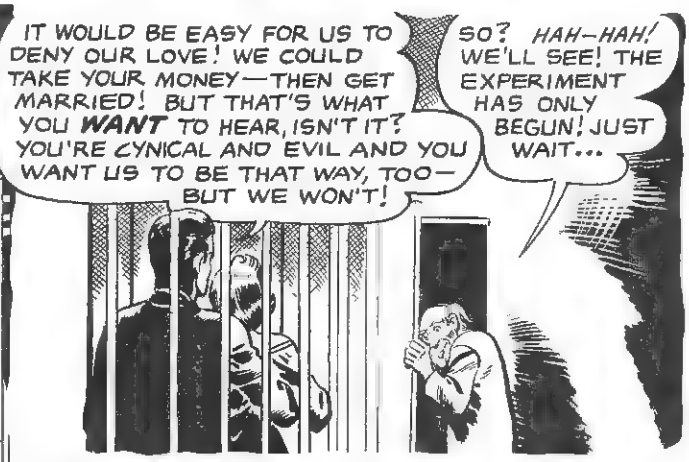
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY NOW — BUT WAIT UNTIL YOU BEGIN TO STARVE! WHEN THERE IS ONLY FOOD ENOUGH FOR ONE OF YOU! NOW REMEMBER— IF YOU HOLD OUT THIRTY DAYS, YOU WIN AND I'LL PAY! OR IF ONE OF YOU ADMITS DEFEAT!
WE'LL NEVER ADMIT IT! LOVE WILL GET US THROUGH!

THE CAGE IS LOCKED...
WE'LL FOOL YOU, PROFESSOR! YOU'LL SEE!
YES--- WE WON'T TURN AGAINST EACH OTHER!
BRAVE TALK, BUT TIME WILL TELL! IT'S UP TO YOU TO CONVINCE ME!

NEXT DAY...
TODAY WE REALLY START THE EXPERIMENT! FROM NOW ON YOUR FOOD WILL GRADUALLY BE CUT DOWN! STILL WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?
YES! WE NEED THAT MONEY TO FURNISH A HOUSE!
YOU CAN'T FRIGHTEN US!

BUT LATER...
SHHH—I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU WHILE HE'S ASLEEP! JUST SAY THE WORD AND YOU CAN HAVE A GOOD MEAL—HE'LL NEVER KNOW...
I—I'M BEGINNING TO HATE YOU! YOU WANT ME TO CHEAT, TO DENY MY LOVE FOR BOB! I WON'T!

AND STILL LATER...
LISTEN—WHILE SHE'S SLEEPING! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A NICE THICK JUICY STEAK? LET HER STARVE IF SHE WANTS TO...
MARY TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR OFFER! MY ANSWER IS THE SAME AS HERS! NO!


IT WOULD BE EASY FOR US TO DENY OUR LOVE! WE COULD TAKE YOUR MONEY—THEN GET MARRIED! BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE CYNICAL AND EVIL AND YOU WANT US TO BE THAT WAY, TOO—BUT WE WON'T!
SO? HAH-HAH! WE'LL SEE! THE EXPERIMENT HAS ONLY BEGUN! JUST WAIT...

A WEEK PASSES...
GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, HORTON! THEY'RE REALLY HUNGRY NOW! WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I—(CHUCKLE)—DROP THIS LOAF OF BREAD!
THEY LOOK HALF DEAD! DON'T YOU THINK THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH?
F-FOOD! I SMELL IT!

A GRIM SIGHT...
BREAD! LET ME HAVE IT! I'M STARVING! LET GO!
NO! IT'S MINE! ALL MINE! YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY! GIVE IT TO ME!

AHHH — THAT'S GOOD! BREAD! FOOD AT LAST! (CHOMP — CHOMP) —
NO! SAVE ME SOME! PLEASE — I'M SO HUNGRY!
YOU SEE, HORTON! LIKE WILD BEASTS! HAH — HAH — HAH!

BUT THEN...
Y-YES — I AM ACTING LIKE A WILD ANIMAL! ALL I WAS THINKING ABOUT WAS MY STOMACH, MY OWN HUNGER! I FORGOT ABOUT MARY...

H-HERE, DARLING! I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME! HERE, TAKE THE BREAD!
HEH-HEH — SO HE'S GOING TO BE NOBLE AND SELF-SACRIFICING AFTER ALL!
YES — YES! GIVE IT TO ME! AHHHH — SO GOOD!

OH! I COULD EAT A DOZEN MORE LOAVES! I'M STILL — (CHOMP-CHOMP) — SO TERRIBLY HUNGRY!
B-BUT, MARY! I — I DIDN'T...
YOU'RE A WEAK FOOL, YOUNG MAN!

LATER...
WELL, CHADWICK, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE! THAT WAS A PRETTY NASTY SCENE, BUT HE DID GIVE HER THE BREAD!
YOU ARE A ROMANTIC OLD FOOL, HORTON! OF COURSE HE GAVE HER THE BREAD! BUT SEE WHAT HAPPENED...

SHE ATE IT ALL, WITHOUT A THOUGHT FOR HIM! HE WON'T FORGET THAT! AND THEY STILL HAVE THREE WEEKS TO GO — UNLESS THEY DENY THEIR LOVE AND ASK TO BE LET OUT! DON'T WORRY, HORTON, I'LL PROVE MY POINT! PEOPLE CARE MORE ABOUT THEIR BELLIES THAN THEIR HEARTS!

BUT WHEN HORTON IS ALONE...
I'M SURE NOW THAT CHADWICK IS MAD! I'LL WATCH MY CHANCE AND RELEASE THOSE YOUNGSTERS, SINCE THEY WON'T GIVE UP!

A WEEK PASSES...
CHADWICK HAS BEEN WATCHING THEM LIKE A HAWK! BUT THIS IS MY CHANCE TO LET THEM GO!
POOR KIDS— THEY LOOK LIKE SAVAGES!

YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE, UNDERSTAND? CHADWICK IS A LUNATIC—IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO ON WITH THIS CRAZY EXPERIMENT!
B-BUT OUR MONEY! WE'LL HAVE BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS FOR NOTHING!
AND THAT LITTLE DEVIL WILL THINK HE'S WON!

SUDDENLY...
SO, HORTON! JUST AS I FEARED! IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS EXPECTING YOU!
CHADWICK! THAT GUN—W-WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?

YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH, MY DEAR COLLEAGUE! NOW IN YOU GO! SINCE YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN MY EXPERIMENT, YOU CAN BECOME A PART OF IT!
BUT THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! YOU REALLY ARE INSANE!

PERHAPS SO, MY FRIEND! BUT NOT TOO CRAZY TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SPOILED MY EXPERIMENT! SO I'LL CHANGE MY PLANS...
CLICK

WE'LL GET YOU!
TEAR HIS EYES OUT!
NOW—NOW! IS THAT ANY WAY FOR YOUNG LOVERS TO TALK? PERHAPS MY EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN PROVEN AFTER ALL—YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN HUNGRY SAVAGES!

ANOTHER WEEK PASSES...
YES, THEY ARE MORE ANIMAL THAN HUMAN BY THIS TIME! I FEEL SURE THAT NOW THEY WOULD GLADLY KILL FOR FOOD! BUT I'LL SOON BE CERTAIN...
May 23. I noticed today that the subjects were snarling at each other like wolves... I think...
AND... LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT FOR YOU! A NICE, RAW STEAK! IT WILL KEEP ONE OF YOU ALIVE A LONG TIME! BUT ONLY—(CHUCKLE)—ONE OF YOU!
THERE! NOW I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO KILL EACH OTHER FOR IT! REMEMBER YOU'RE CIVILIZED...
AGHHHH— GIMME!
NO! ME!
AHHHH—
BUT AS HE ADJUSTS THE TRAP-DOOR, HE SLIPS...
OH, THE CAGE! SLIPPERY! I—I'M F-FALLING INTO THE CAGE!
BUT...
IT'S OKAY! I DIDN'T GO ALL THE WAY IN! NOW JUST TO WRIGGLE OUT!
PROFESSOR CHADWICK SUDDENLY FINDS THAT HE CANNOT MOVE! BUT WHY?...
Y-YOU! LET GO OF MY LEGS! YOU CAN'T! NO! DON'T, FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN...
ARRRRRRR—
AGARRRRR—
M-MY LEGS!
EEEEEEYOWWWWW—
The End

DEATH DANCE

PULAH, JUNGLE GODDESS, WAS ON A MISSION OF MONEY FOR HER TRIBE WHEN SHE STUMBLED ON THE MOST DANGEROUS EPISODES OF HER CAREER. THE BEASTS OF THE JUNGLE ARE WHIPPED INTO A MADDENED FRENZY AND ACT CRUELLY HUMAN IN THIS WEIRD ADVENTURE OF *THE DANCING MACABRE!*

SABER IS GROUNDED FROM THE SURPRISE ATTACK AND HIS FOE HAS IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE... THE FATE OF THE EBONY CAT IS SEALED...
THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU, BOY! AND I'M GOING TO SEE THAT IT'S TOO MUCH FOR HIM, TOO! A SNEAK ATTACK CALLS FOR A SERIOUS PENALTY!
YOUR CARCASS WILL BE A WARNING TO OTHERS IN THIS AREA! I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE TERROR WHO'S BEEN SHOWING UP IN THE VILLAGES LATELY!
DEATH IS NEVER SWEET TO A KILLER BUT YOU'VE COME TO THE END OF YOUR CAREER! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE TOO SURE OF YOURSELF!
OH-OH! NOW WHAT? THE PLACE IS VIBRATING WITH THE BELLOWS OF A THOUSAND WILD VOICES! I'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE THIS! STAND BY, SABER, WHILE I FIND OUT WHAT'S CAUSING THIS DIN!
IT SEEMS TO HAVE STAGE EFFECTS AND THAT MEANS IT'S NOT FAR AWAY! GOODNESS! IT'S GETTING LOUDER! MUST BE AN ARMY OF THEM! AND IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, I HEAR A WOMAN SCREAMING LOUDER THAT ALL THE OTHERS!
WHAT'S THIS? TWANO! THE MAIDEN WHO DISAPPEARED FROM THE VILLAGE YESTERDAY! I NEVER DREAMED SHE WAS IN THE JUNGLE! BUT WHAT KIND OF A CEREMONY IS THIS? THEY ARE CHANTING SOMETHING! IF ONLY I COULD UNDERSTAND THEIR TONGUE...
SABER, GO TO THE COMMISSIONER'S AND TELL HIM TO BRING HELP TO THIS VERY SPOT...HURRY! I AM GOING TO TAKE A GRANDSTAND SEAT LONG ENOUGH TO TRY TO FIGURE THIS THING OUT!

PULAH'S PET HAS THE INTELLIGENCE OF A HUMAN BEING AND UNDERSTANDS HIS MISTRESS' BIDDING. HE HAS THE SPEED OF AN ANTELOPE AND IS HEADING DIRECTLY FOR THE COMMISSIONER'S HUT...
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF STRANGE RITES IN MY DAY BUT THIS BEATS ALL! THAT POOR GIRL IS FRIGHTENED OUT OF HER WITS. BUT I'VE GOT TO CHANCE WATCHING A LITTLE MORE... THOSE BEASTS ACT AS IF THEY HAD BEEN TRAINED! BUT BY WHOM? AND FOR WHAT REASON?
OH, NO... I'M FRIGHTENED! PLEASE DO NOT COME NEARER! IS THERE NO ONE TO HEAR ME? I WILL DIE... I WILL DIE... SOMEONE SAVE ME!
SCREAMING IN TERROR, THE HELPLESS MAIDEN WATCHES AS A GIANT APE SWINGS HIS FLAMING TORCH IN WIDENING CIRCLES AROUND HIS HEAD AND FINALLY SHE REALIZES HIS INTENTIONS...
NO... DO NOT CAST THE FIRE AT ME! HELP... MERCY! WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TWANO FOR SUCH A PUNISHMENT? HELP...
AS ENRAGED BY THE GIRL'S PLEA THE BULL FLINGS THE CRUDE BRAND...
GOT TO STOP THIS RIGHT NOW! LUCKY SHE'S PASSED OUT FROM FRIGHT, FOR THE MORE SHE SCREAMS THE MORE SHE EXCITES THOSE BRUTES. I CAN'T FIGHT THE HORDE, BUT I MAY BE ABLE TO STOP THEM FROM TORTURING THAT GIRL UNTIL THE COMMISSIONER AND HELP ARRIVE...
HERE GOES NOTHING! YOU CAN GIVE YOUR ATTENTIONS TO PULAH, UGLIES, AND WE'LL USE YOUR OWN ARENA FOR THE SCENE OF OUR BATTLE ROYAL! ONE AT A TIME, NOW... LET'S BE POLITE ABOUT THIS THING...
ROUND ONE AND OHHHHH ... COURAGE, TWANO... THE COMMISSIONER WILL RESCUE ... OHHH...

OHH... MY POOR HEAD! UGH, FOR A MINUTE OR TWO I DIDN'T HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR GRIZZLY FACES! WELL... IF YOU COULD SPEAK I WONDER YOU'D HAVE TO SAY? WHAT DO YOU INTEND DOING WITH ME, EH?
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET VERY FAR AWAY... OKAY, I'M AWARE THAT I CAN'T FIGHT YOUR WHOLE GANG. YOU WIN... TAKE YOUR HAIRY ARMS OFF ME...
PULAH IS NOT RELEASED, RATHER, SHE IS DRAGGED DEEPER INTO THE THICKET...
AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT KILLING ME RIGHT OFF, AS I THOUGHT THEY WOULD! BUT STILL I CAN'T HELP THINKING THEY ACT UNDER A COMMAND... SOMEONE'S ORDERS... AND IF I'M RIGHT, I SHOULD SOON KNOW WHO...
A WOMAN! MASKED... THEY PAY HER HOMAGE AS IF SHE WERE A QUEEN! NOW WHO COULD THIS MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER BE? AND WHAT'S HER GAME?
YOU BRING PULAH TO ME!
MANY TIMES HAVE I THOUGHT TO SEEK YOU AND OFFER YOU PART OF MY KINGDOM, FOR I ADMIRE THE TALES I HEAR OF YOUR COURAGE. YES, YOU ARE THE ONLY WOMAN I ADMIRE. FOR I HATE ALL OTHERS... THAT IS WHY I HAVE TRAINED MY BEASTS TO RID THESE LANDS OF THEM. THEY MUST GO... THROUGH FRIGHT... OR DEATH!
DEATH! SAY WHO ARE YOU TO METE OUT SUCH A SENTENCE TO ANYONE? TAKE THAT MASK OFF AND REVEAL YOURSELF! I HAVE NO USE FOR FANTASY SO LET'S GET DOWN TO FACTS!
HOLD HER BACK!
I WAS WRONG TO OFFER SUCH A ONE ANY POWER IN MY KINGDOM! SHE IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHERS... TAKE HER ALONG WITH YOU... SHE CAN SEE FOR HERSELF HOW FLORA OPERATES TO KEEP THE CONGO FREE OF USELESS, UGLY FEMALES!
THAT NIGHT PULAH BECOMES PART OF A HIDEOUS SAFARI THAT FILES ITS WAY NEARER HER VILLAGE EVERY MINUTE. AGAINST HER WILL, SHE WILL VIEW THE TORTURES THAT ARE BROUGHT FORTH BY FLORA AND THE DANCING GORILLAS OF DEATH!
SHE IS EITHER WISE, NOT CRYING OUT FOR HELP... OR A FOOL WHO PROBABLY PLANS A WAY TO ESCAPE...

WE ARE AT LAST NEAR, MY LOYAL PETS! RAID THE VILLAGE AND CAPTURE ONLY THE MAIDENS BUT DO SO WITH GREAT SPEED! IF THE MEN TRY TO STOP YOU, SLAY THEM... SLAY THEM!
OHHHH... THE BEASTS OF THE JUNGLE ATTACK! BUT WHY?
MERCY! WE MUST TRY TO FIGHT THEM... ELSE WE WILL ALL BE DESTROYED!
AAAA... I DIE!
NO... NO...
WHY DO THEY NOT ATTACK ME?
WHAT EVIL HAS BEFALLEN US? IF PULAH WERE ONLY HERE TO PROTECT US... WE ARE BEING CARRIED OFF INTO THE JUNGLE!
FIGHT, SISTERS! IF WE BECOME CAPTIVES OF THE WILD ONES WE WILL NEVER SEE OUR TRIBESMEN AGAIN!
LATER, PULAH VIEWS ONE OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF FEAR AS THE NIGHT AIR RESOUNDS WITH THE SCREAMS OF THE MAIDENS...
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE... FLORA HAS ONLY MAIDENS CAPTURED FOR APPARENTLY NO REASON AT ALL AND THE APES PROCEED TO TERRORIZE THEM WITH A FIRE DANCE!
MEANWHILE SABER REACHES THE COMMISSIONER'S HEADQUARTERS AND THE DARK STREAK RACES PAST THE GUARDS INTO THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE ITSELF!
AIEE! A BLACK PANTHER! HE'S GOING INTO THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE... NEVER SAW SUCH SPEED!
IT'S SABER... PULAH'S PET! AND HE'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING... LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS ME TO FOLLOW HIM. I GUESS PULAH MUST BE IN DANGER! YES, SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG BECAUSE SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TODAY!
HE... HE GOT BY TOO FAST! I'LL KILL HIM... BUT HE ISN'T FIGHTING!
NO... HE'S A TAMED PANTHER... PULAH MUST BE IN TROUBLE. GATHER TOGETHER A SQUAD OF THE MEN AND WE'LL FOLLOW HIM BACK INTO THE JUNGLE WHERE HE WANTS TO TAKE US!

THIS IS DREADFUL! YOU'LL DRIVE THOSE GIRLS MAD WITH FEAR! DON'T YOU REALIZE THE APES ARE EXCITED ENOUGH TO THRUST THOSE TORCHES RIGHT AT THE GIRLS? I BEG OF YOU, AS ONE WOMAN TO ANOTHER TO STOP THIS TORTURE!
HA! THE GREAT JUNGLE GODDESS DISPLAYS A WEAK HEART! AND SHE DARES TO MAKE A REQUEST FROM FLORA FROM WHOM SHE DENIED A REQUEST! GOOD FORTUNE PREVENTED ME FROM SHARING MY POWER WITH YOU, WENCH! THE JUNGLE HAS SUDDENLY GROWN TOO SMALL FOR US BOTH... SO YOU MUST DEPART!
TIE HER TO A STAKE ALSO, MY PETS, AND WE WILL HAVE THE GREATEST SPORT YET! THE OTHERS KNEW ONLY TORTURE, BUT THIS FAMED BEAUTY MUST HAVE SPECIAL HONORS!
BEAUTY? THAT MUST BE HER MOTIVE...EVERYONE THAT SHE TORTURES IS PRETTY, AND SHE WEARS A HOOD! THESE BEASTS ARE FAIRLY INTELLIGENT BUT THEIR SMALL MINDS CAN'T KNOW ALL THE TRICKS OF HUMANS! I'LL JUST HOLD MY HANDS APART AS MUCH AS I DARE. THEY ARE TYING THEM SO THAT LATER MY BONDS WILL BE LOOSE!
DANCE, MY FRIENDS! DANCE! AND GIVE ME A TORCH TOO, FOR THIS IS ONE TIME THAT I WILL JOIN THE CEREMONY! ONCE RULAH IS SLAIN, WE WILL HAVE NO ONE IN THE JUNGLE TO DISPUTE OUR RULE!
THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST DANCE, FLORA, FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT PEOPLE ARE COMING TO MY RESCUE. EVEN IF I SHOULD DIE YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT! YOU'RE DOOMED AS SURE AS SHOOTING!
HAREEEE! DON'T TRY TO TRICK ME WITH THREATS!
HEH, HEH ...I WILL NOW PERFORM THE DEED MYSELF! PULAH USES AN OLD TRICK TO DISUADE ME FROM MY CEREMONIAL DANCE, BUT I AM DEDICATED TO SLAY HER... SLAY HER!

HOW DOES THAT HOT FLAME FEEL SO CLOSE, PULAH. SURELY, YOUR GREAT JUNGLE PROWESS CAN COPE WITH THIS! HA, HA, HA... NOW I SHALL BACK AWAY AND HURL IT INTO YOUR FACE.
GET... GET THOSE FLAMES AWAY FROM MY FACE.
CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHERE THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS MEN ARE... BUT THIS IS THE TIME I'VE GOT TO MAKE A MOVE. LUCKY THING I FOOLED THOSE APES INTO THINKING I'M TIED SECURELY... NOW I CAN LOOSEN THE BONDS!
THERE! THAT WAS EASY ENOUGH...YET I CAN'T MAKE A MOVE UNTIL SHE GETS RID OF THE TORCH. LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN STILL DO PLENTY OF DAMAGE WITH IT, EVEN IF MY HANDS ARE FREE... AND THE APES!
NOW MY BEAUTY, YOU SHALL BE UGLY WHEN THE FLAMES SEAR YOUR SKIN. THE TORCH WILL FIND A TRUE MARK, AND MY BEAUTIFUL APES ARE ENJOYING THIS IMMENSELY, FOR THEY REALIZE THEIR MASTER IS A GREAT TEACHER!
NOT THIS TIME...THIS ISN'T AS EASY AS YOUR OTHER VICTIMS, FLORA. I WON'T DIE WITHOUT GIVING A FIGHT! MAYBE YOUR APES WILL GET ME, BUT AT LEAST IT WON'T BE THE TORTUROUS TORCH THAT PUTS AN END TO MY LIFE... AND MAYBE I'LL TAKE A COUPLE OF YOU WITH ME.
THE BONDS... SHE GOT FREE! HOW...
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO NOW FACE ONE WHO IS SKILLED AT KILLING EVIL ANIMALS LIKE YOURSELF? YOU DON'T HAVE A TORCH TO PROTECT YOU THIS TIME, SO IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A FAIR FIGHT, AFTER ALL.
YOU DO NOT HAVE AS MUCH BRAIN AS YOU HAVE BRAWN...YOU FORGET THAT WE DISARMED YOU, AND NOW I'LL TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN KILLING YOU WITH YOUR OWN BLADE. I WON'T EVEN CALL MY FRIENDS UNTIL I HAVE CUT YOUR HEART OUT!

AT LAST WE'RE HERE AND WHAT A SIGHT! THE PLACE IS LOADED WITH GORILLAS CARRYING TORCHES! AFTER THEM, MEN! PULAH LOOKS PRETTY BUSY AT THE MOMENT! NICE GOING, SABER, ON GETTING US HERE ON TIME!
THESE BEASTS ARE TOUGH!
SOME OF THEM ARE GETTING AWAY... BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT... AS LONG AS THEY DON'T HAVE A LEADER, THEY'LL REVERT BACK TO THEIR JUNGLE STATUS!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL LET GO THE KNIFE, FLORA, THE JIGS UP. YOU WERE ABLE TO CONTROL AN ARMY OF APES, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING, YOU'RE JUST A BABE IN ARMS!
OH... OH... YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM... I'LL LET GO!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME... I'M GETTING AWAY... AAAAA!
NOT SO FAST, HONEY, IT WASN'T TOO MANY YEARS AGO THAT I KNEW AN ALL AMERICAN FULLBACK AND HE TAUGHT ME A FEW TRICKS IN THE GAME!
NOW, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT YOU! I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHO HIDES BEHIND THIS MASK SO THAT NO ONE CAN TELL WHO SHE IS!
NOW... NOW YOU KNOW WHY I HAVE KILLED BEAUTIFUL WOMEN... I AM UGLY AND SCARRED FROM FLAME! ONCE I WAS BEAUTIFUL... WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE A MAIDEN'S LOVER AWAY FROM HER AND SHE SEARED MY FACE WITH A TORCH. DO NOT SPARE ME, I WANT TO DIE SO THAT NO ONE WILL LOOK AT ME AGAIN!
NO... NOT THE HOOD... ANYTHING, I'LL KILL MYSELF, BUT NOT THE HOOD!
THIS WAS REALLY A CLOSE CALL, PULAH, AND I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU FOR YOUR QUICK THINKING... THAT SABER IS A WONDERFUL PET!
SOMETIMES WE MUST FORGIVE ONE FOR HIS ACTIONS, BUT YET WE CANNOT LET THEM LIVE THEY ARE HOSTILE... I SUGGEST YOU CAN PLACE HER IN AN INSTITUTION FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE!
THE END

DIMENSION-HORROR!

OUT OF THE MURKY DEPTHS IT CAME--THIS GIANT MONSTER THAT COULD REASON AND THINK! AND THE TWO PEOPLE CAUGHT IN ITS CLAWS HAD NO INKLING OF THE ETERNAL DRAMA BEING PLAYED--FOR SPACE SHIFTED AND TIME TWISTED INTO--

EEEEEEE! IT'S GOING TO *EAT* US!

WE CAN'T FIGHT IT OR EVEN TRY TO RUN AWAY! WE'RE *TRAPPED!*

IN ANOTHER TIME--ANOTHER SPACE--ANOTHER WORLD, THERE IS A MIGHTY CREATURE THAT IS THE PRIME LIFE-FORM OF THE PLANET! IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE US--OR EVEN THINK LIKE US! ALL HE THINKS ABOUT IS *FOOD!*

THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO EAT THIS SUN-PERIOD! PERHAPS IF I GLIDE TOWARDS THE RIM, I SHALL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL!

HIS NAME IS GOLGOTH AND THE OTHER LESSER CREATURES CALL HIM GOLGOTH, THE MIGHTY! WE KNOW HIM AS A PREHISTORIC DINOSAUR!

I SHALL DO WELL TO STAY IN THE SHADOWS! THE RAYS OF THE SUNS BEAT DOWN UNMERCIFULLY UPON MY BRAIN-CASE! BUT MY STOMACH HAS PANGS OF HUNGER GNAWING AT MY REASON

AH! A SHRAGLA! I AM ON THE RIGHT PATH! THE CURRENT HAS SENT THE SMALL CREATURES TOWARDS THAT CLUMP OF ROCKS! GOOD!
KA-KAEEEE
KAEE

DO NOT STRUGGLE SO, FOOLISH ONE-- FOR IT IS GOLGOTH WHO HAS TRAPPED YOU! I WILL RELISH YOUR BODY!
KAEEEE
SSSSSW

UMMM! GOOD! BUT NOT ENOUGH TO SATISFY MY APPETITE! THAT CLUSTER OF ROCKS INTRIGUE ME! HO! I SHALL MOVE TOWARDS THEM! MAKE WAY! GOLGOTH COMES!

GOLGOTH, THE MIGHTY, SPED TOWARDS THE LARGEST OF THE CAVES! THE GLOOM OF ITS INTERIOR CUT OFF ALL SUNLIGHT WITH A CLOAK OF INKY TERROR!
HOW COOL AND REFRESHING! BUT THERE IS NOTHING HERE-- NOT EVEN A TINY MORSEL TO SATISFY ME! I SHALL SEARCH ITS INTERIOR!

PAH! IT IS BEST THAT I GO BACK TO MY OWN WATERS! NO-- WAIT! I SEE LIGHT EVEN FURTHER WITHIN! THIS IS INDEED A STRANGE CAVE! IT IS LARGER THAN IT APPEARS!

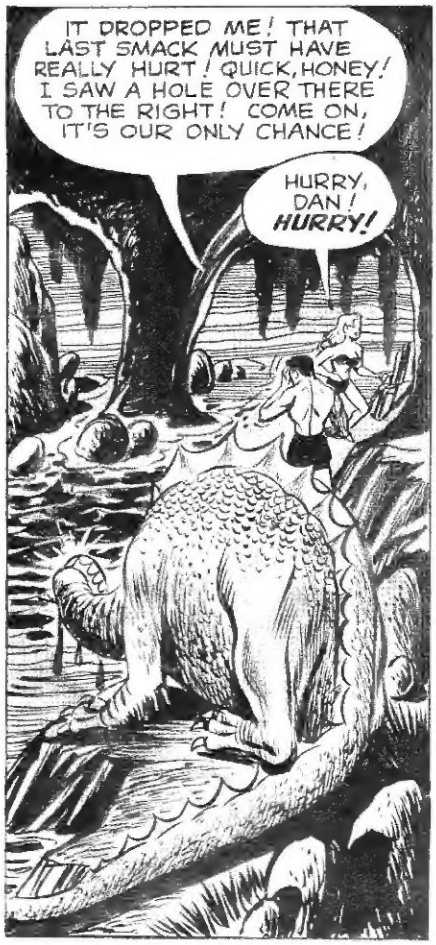
DEEPER AND DEEPER, THE HUGE MONSTER GLIDED--AND THEN-- HIS HEAD MANDIBLES SENSED-- FOOD! SINKING SILENTLY TO THE VERY CAVE BOTTOM, GOLGOTH GATHERED HIMSELF FOR ONE TREMENDOUS LEAP UP THROUGH THE WATER--STRAIGHT FOR HIS VICTIMS!
THEY DO NOT SENSE MY PRESENCE! MY PERSISTANCE HAS BEEN REWARDED!

NOW LET US SHIFT OUR ATTENTION TO EARTH! DAN NORTH AND VICKI COLLINS ARE A TYPICAL YOUNG COUPLE ENJOYING A BEACH VACATION ON A TYPICAL SUNNY DAY. THEY ARE ALSO VERY MUCH IN LOVE--

IT WASN'T STANLEY THAT THEY MET-- BUT GOLGOTH! HE CAME UP LIKE A BOLT THROUGH THE MURKY DEEP TO GULP DOWN HIS PREY! BUT HE WAS JUST AS SURPRISED TO SEE THEM AS THEY WERE HIM!

GOLGOTH DECIDED TO REMAIN VERY STILL FOR A MOMENT, THEN MAKE HIS MOVE!
I WISH THEY WOULD STOP CHATTERING AWAY IN THOSE HIGH-PITCHED TONES! MY EARS HURT WITH PAIN! I HOPE THEY TASTE SWEET!

THIS ONE IS FULL OF LIFE! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT HE IS LIKE!
AAAAGGH! IT'S GOT ME AROUND THE WAIST!
USE THE ROCK, DAN! THE ROCK!


IT DROPPED ME! THAT LAST SMACK MUST HAVE REALLY HURT! QUICK, HONEY! I SAW A HOLE OVER THERE TO THE RIGHT! COME ON, IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
HURRY, DAN! HURRY!

I--I'LL KNOCK OUT ITS EYE! I'LL CRUSH IT! LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
THIS SQUIRMING, WRIGGLING PEST IS TOO ILL-TEMPERED! HOW DARE IT RESIST ME--GOLGOTH! AAAAEEEEIIIEEE!

GOLGOTH NOW WAS VERY ANGRY! HIS EYE HURT HIM INTENSELY! HIS PRIDE HURT EVEN MORE!
EVEN IF THEY DO NOT TASTE SWEET, I WILL EAT THEM ANYWAY! HOW DARE THEY STRIKE AT ME! I SHALL CRUSH THEM SO! I SHALL DASH THEM SENSELESS AGAINST THE ROCKS!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE CAVE-HOLE--
I--I'M MAKING HEADWAY HERE! I CAN SEE LIGHT! THAT MEANS IF WE CAN BREAK DOWN THIS WALL, WE'LL BE OUT IN THE OPEN!
OHHH! I--I'M TERRIFIED! THAT--THAT THING OUTSIDE IS TRYING TO FORCE ITS WAY IN!

UGHH! JUST A BIT MORE! IT-- IT'S COMING!
HURRY! HURRY!

COME ON! SWIM LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SWAM BEFORE! WE HAVE TO WARN OTHERS ABOUT THAT--MONSTER IN THERE!
IT'S GOT HIS CLAWS INSIDE! ANOTHER SECOND AND--AND--OHH-- I NEVER WANT TO SEE THIS PLACE AGAIN!

ONE HOUR AFTERWARDS, TWO BOATLOADS OF GRIM POLICE RUSHED BACK TO THE ISLAND--
NOW WHERE IS IT?
O-OVER HERE, OFFICER! BE CAREFUL! IT'S AS BIG AS A HOUSE! IT'S RIGHT IN THAT CAVE!
POLICE

RIGHT HERE, OFFICER! RIGHT BY-- WHY--THERE'S NO CAVE HERE! IT--IT'S GONE!
ULP! BUT WE'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!
OF ALL THE NUTTY LOVE-SICK COUPLES I GOTTA MEET! NEXT TIME WHEN YA SEE A DRAGON-- OR SOMETHING, CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!

AT THE SAME TIME, IN GOLGOTH'S WORLD, A PUZZLED DINOSAUR--IF HE CAN BE CALLED THAT--WAS SWIMMING AWAY FROM HIS TRYING EXPERIENCE--
AMAZING-- SIMPLY AMAZING! THE CAVE DISAPPEARED! I MUST GO SEE XARBOL, THE HEALER! MY HUNGER HAS GIVEN ME HALLUCINATIONS! TWO LEGGED CREATURES! PAH! THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS!

DREAMS--HALLUCINATIONS--MIRACLES? PERHAPS! BUT IN A WORLD EVEN LARGER THAN THEIR OWN!
GOO! GOO! GURGLE!
YOU SEE, TARTLOC? I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN JUNIOR THOSE TOYS! LOOK WHAT HE DID! HE OPENED ONE BUBBLE WORLD AND PLACED IT IN THE OTHER!
YES, BUT HE'S A GOOD BOY! HE TOOK THEM RIGHT OUT AGAIN!
THE END